

Summary of Notes of Dangerous Goods Standing Committee Meeting held on 15 May 2025

Matters of Discussion

1. Review of Dangerous Goods Ordinance (DGO)/Regulations

Progress of the review:

- Implementation of the amended DGO, Cap. 295 and its subsidiary legislation

FSD consulted members and other stakeholders, including tertiary institutions and the oil industry, regarding the “Proposed Amendments to Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012, Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation and Code of Practice for Control of Dangerous Goods on Land”. No comments were received in this regard.

The amendment process was in progress with a view to tabling the Notice for amendment of schedules to the Legislative Council in June 2025 for negative vetting. Its effective dates would be on 1 January 2026 and 1 January 2027 by stages. The revised Code of Practice would also be published in the gazette after the vetting period.

2. Safe Operation of Petrol Filling Stations (PFS)

FSD had conducted surprise inspections to 9 PFS from February to April 2025, during which fire safety advice was given to operators concerned.

Special operation for surprise inspections of PFS across the territory to ensure that compliance with Fire Safety Requirements was completed satisfactorily in February and March 2025. A total of 175 PFS were inspected in the special operation, during which fire safety advice was provided to PFS operators. PFS operators were also reminded that operating Electric Vehicles (EV) charging facilities within a PFS without obtaining prior approval from FSD would be considered as a breach of licensing conditions. The first formal application for retrofitting of EV charging facilities at PFS received by Dangerous Goods Control Division (DGCD) was subsequently approved in April

2025, which would be followed by the compliance inspection to the subject amendment pending the report of completion.

3. Enforcement Actions Related to Over-Storage of Dangerous Goods

From February to April 2025, FSD conducted 246 rounds of surprise inspections to hardware and chemical material stores and had taken relevant enforcement actions against cases of over-storage of DG. In addition, a fire incident which occurred in Tai Po on 20 April 2025 was suspected involving an illicit fuelling activities (IFA) related to petrol and caused two firefighters sustained injuries during the course of fire-fighting. With a view to combating such IFA, Dangerous Goods Enforcement Division (DGED) stepped up the enforcement measures by conducting high-profile inspection of blackspot and initiated joint operations with other enforcement departments between 28 April 2025 and 9 May 2025. During the operation, DGED successfully smashed suspected IFA at Hung Shui Kiu and Shek Kip Mei on 30 April 2025 and 8 May 2025 respectively.

4. Fire Safety at Oil Depots

The next table-top exercise on the “Voluntary Mutual Aid Scheme - Provision of Reserve Foam Concentrate in the Event of a Major Oil Farm Incident” was tentatively scheduled for 19 June 2025.

5. Safe Operation at DG stores

A recent incident involving DG facilities was shared with Members. Preliminary investigation and remedial actions were reported.

From February to April 2025, more than 400 surprise inspections were carried out to approved DG Stores. The condition of most of the inspected DG stores was satisfactory.

6. Retrofitting EV Charging Facilities at Existing PFS

As of 15 May 2025, FSD received 64 proposals for retrofitting EV charging facilities at existing PFS, 51 of which were granted approval.

7. Control of Special Gases in the Microelectronics Industry

In order to align with the HKSAR Government's effort in developing new quality productive forces, FSD would continue to prioritise the microelectronics industry related applications and to maintain close liaison with the relevant stakeholders. Dangerous Goods Legislation Division was in close communication with the team overseeing the Microelectronics Centre (MEC) development at Yuen Long InnoPark to discuss safety measures as well as upcoming emergency response arrangements, and would continue to maintain active and ongoing liaison with MEC.

FSD was exploring the establishment of an advisory group to foster regular dialogue among relevant key stakeholders, aiming to periodically review and enhance the safety regulatory framework for special gases.

8. Enhancing Safety of Dangerous Goods Vehicle

To enhance the fire safety awareness on conveyance of DG, DGED was working with the Hong Kong Fuel Transportation Association Limited to organise a training course for the dangerous goods vehicle drivers.

From February to April 2025, DGED conducted surprise inspections to 36 licensed DG Vehicles. The Fire Safety Requirements and relevant licensing conditions were found to be complied with.

9. Dangerous Goods Vehicle Tracking System

While preparing the necessary administrative works and seeking the legal advice on introducing the DG vehicle tracking system (the System), FSD was conducting a comprehensive market research on identifying any potential supplier that could develop the System and provide the relevant logistic supports for its future implementation.